



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:
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To: State Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Secretary, Department of Natural Resources of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
Governor of Guam
Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands
Governor of American Samoa
Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mayor of the District of Columbia

Pursuant to the Interior Appropriations Act of 2005, States and Territories are eligible to compete for funds under the Landowner Incentive Program. For FY 2005, the Landowner Incentive Program has \$21.7 million to allocate the States, approximately \$4 million less than last year. The Service published a Request for Proposals for this program in the February 15, 2005 Federal Register, and included a 60-day grant proposal submission period which ended April 15. We received proposals requesting over \$37.3 million from 43 States and the U.S. Virgin Islands. As a result, some proposals with considerable merit will not receive funding. In addition, this year we gave partial funding to the majority of States awarded funding. This was done to reward the high quality of proposals received and increase the number of States awarded funds.

After giving full consideration to the Service National Review Team recommendation, we will make grant awards to 38 States and the U.S. Virgin Islands under Tier 1, and to 23 States under Tier 2. A table is enclosed listing the States selected for grant awards. The Tier 1 grants emphasize program infrastructure building, and have a cap of \$180,000. The Tier 2 grants focus on program implementation, and in combination with a Tier 1 grant, have a FY 2005 cap of \$946,959, or 5 percent of the total funds available. We congratulate the States on these awards and request that their agencies contact the appropriate Regional Office, Division of Federal Assistance, prior to submitting the remaining grant agreement and compliance documentation necessary to obligate awarded funds.

The Regional Office staffs remain willing to provide feedback and suggestions to those States whose grant proposals were not selected for funding this year in an effort to improve their proposed programs and future competitiveness. In addition, the Regions look forward to assisting those States and Territories who did not submit proposals this time, but would like to do so in the future.

Sincerely,


Acting
DIRECTOR

Enclosure